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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State (82)

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE PRIORITY
INFO RUQMGU/AMEMBASSY ANKARA
RUQVHN/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
RUFJC/AMEMBASSY PARIS
RUQMAT/AMEMBASSY ATHENS
RUFUBE/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
RUQMSN/AMCONGEN ISTANBUL
RUFKVCX/AMEMBASSY SOFIA
RUQMAT/AMCONGEN THESSALONIKI
STATE GRNC
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UNCLAS LONDON 8698

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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SUBJ: GREEK COUP

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1. 35 LABOR BACKBENCHERS INCLUDING MICHAEL FOOT CABLED KING CONSTANTINE APRIL 21 PROTESTING ARMY TAKEOVER AND URGING IMMEDIATE RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOV'T FOLLOWED BY EARLY ELECTIONS.
2. DAILY TELEGRAPH QUOTES EDA MP STAMATIS MERKOURIS, IN LONDON FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT, AS SAYING GREEK PEOPLE WILL RESIST THE "NEW DICTATORSHIP OF FASCIST TYPE." HE OPINED QUEEN FREDERIKA WAS "EVIL GENIUS OF WHOLE TURMOIL."
3. MUCH SPECULATIVE MATERIAL IN APRIL 22 LONDON PRESS. SOME PAPERS REPORT WHITEHALL CONCERN LEST ARMY SEEK TO POPULARIZE ITSELF BY SEEKING TO FORCE ENOSIS ON GOC OR CONDONING PROVACATIVE ACTS BY GR[illegible]AS. ACCORDING GUARDIAN'S MICHAEL WALL, COUP COULD QUICKLY PR[illegible]ATE CIVIL WAR. HE LEARNED GROUP OF RIGHT -WING OFFI[illegible]S PREPARED COUP PLANS AT LEAST SIX WEEKS AGO. PERSONS CLOSE TO KING HAD BEEN SAYING PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN CHANCE MAKE WRONG ELECTION CHOICE FOR SOME YEARS. "MUCH WILL BE MADE OF FACT THAT ONE OF KING'S CLOSEST ADVISERS IS AN AMERICAN SECONDED TO HIM AS MILITARY ADVISER. THE LEFT WILL ACCUSE AMERICANS OF INFLUENCING KING TO AGREEING TO, IF NOT ORDERING, THE ARMY TAKEOVER." WALL THINKS COMMUNISTS WILL EMERGE STRONGER WHATEVER TRANSPIRES NOW, AND IT NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT THEY CONSPIRED TO THIS END.
4. EDITORIAL COMMENT:
A. TIMES (IND): SAYS KING MAY BE TRYING SAVE MONARCHY BUT IN FACT MAY BE INVITING ITS DESTRUCTION. THERE BOUND TO BE TREMENDOUS POPULAR REACTION. PAPANDREOU PROVOKED HIS OPPONENTS

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UNNECESSARILY, BUT WAS BASICALLY RIGHT THAT KING TOO DEEPLY INVOLVED IN POLITICS.

B. GUARDIAN (LIBERAL) NOTES ONE THING WORSE THAN MILITARY COUP IS CIVIL WAR. CAN BE SOME SATISFACTION THAT LESSER EVIL CAME ABOUT, FOR BEHAVIOR OF GREEK POLITICIANS, INCLUDING KING, MADE ONE IF NOT BOTH INEVITABLE. KING MISTAKEN TO ALLOW KANELLOPOLOUS GOV'T SOLE CONTROL OF ELECTIONS. EVEN MORE UNWISE TO ALLOW DEVELOPMENT OF STATE OF FEUD BETWEEN HIMSELF AND PAPANDREOU AND TO CONDUCT HIMSELF AS PAPANDREOU'S POLITICAL OPPONENT. KING ALL ALONG MISCALCULATED PAPANDREOU'S SUPPORT WHICH CERTAINLY FAR GREATER THAN ANY OTHER POLITICIAN'S AND ALMOST GREATER THAN KING'S "SIMPLE RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE NOW NO ANSWER TO PROBLEM UNLESS POWERS OF KING MORE CLOSELY DEFINED AND ASPIDA PLOT CONSIGNED BY AMNESTY TO DUSTBIN OF POLITICAL EXCESSES."

C. DAILY TELEGRAPH (CONSERVATIVE) SEES LITTLE HOPE THAT COUP WILL RESOLVE GREEK DISSENSIONS. ONLY JUSTIFICATION FOR COUP WOULD HAVE BEEN REASONABLE PROOF COMMUNISTS HAD INFILTRATED PAPANDREOU'S PARTY AND WITH SUPPORT OF ARMED ADHERENTS PLANNED TO USE HIS ELECTION VICTORY TO SEIZE POWER. BUT THE PAPANDREOUS NEITHER

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COMMUNISTS NOR FOOLS. UNLESS KING CAN JUSTIFY NEED FOR COUP OR ESCAPE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT, GREEK MONARCHY HAS SUFFERED SERIOUS BLOW. BRUCE
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PASSED S/S-O, WHITE HOUSE, USIA, CIA, NSA, DOD, 4/22/67,12:01PM

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